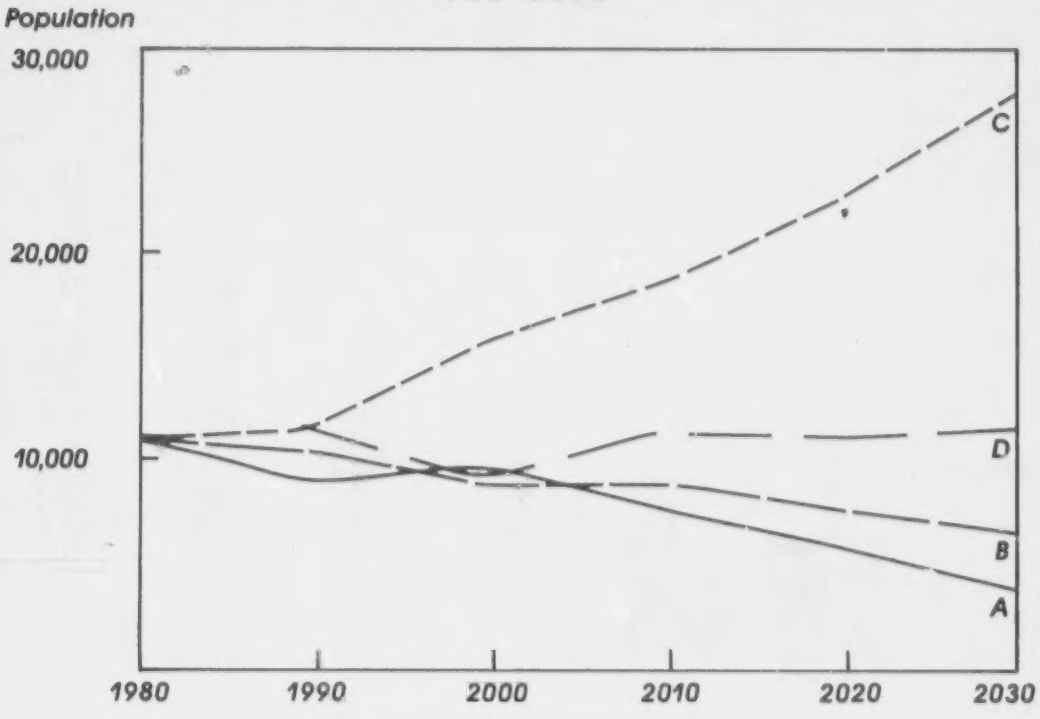
Figure 3: School-Age Population (5–14) in St. Kitts/Nevis, 1980–2030



A: TFR of 3.6, net emigration of 800
B: TFR of 2.5, net emigration of 400
C: TFR of 3.6, net migration of zero
D: TFR of 2.2, net migration of zero

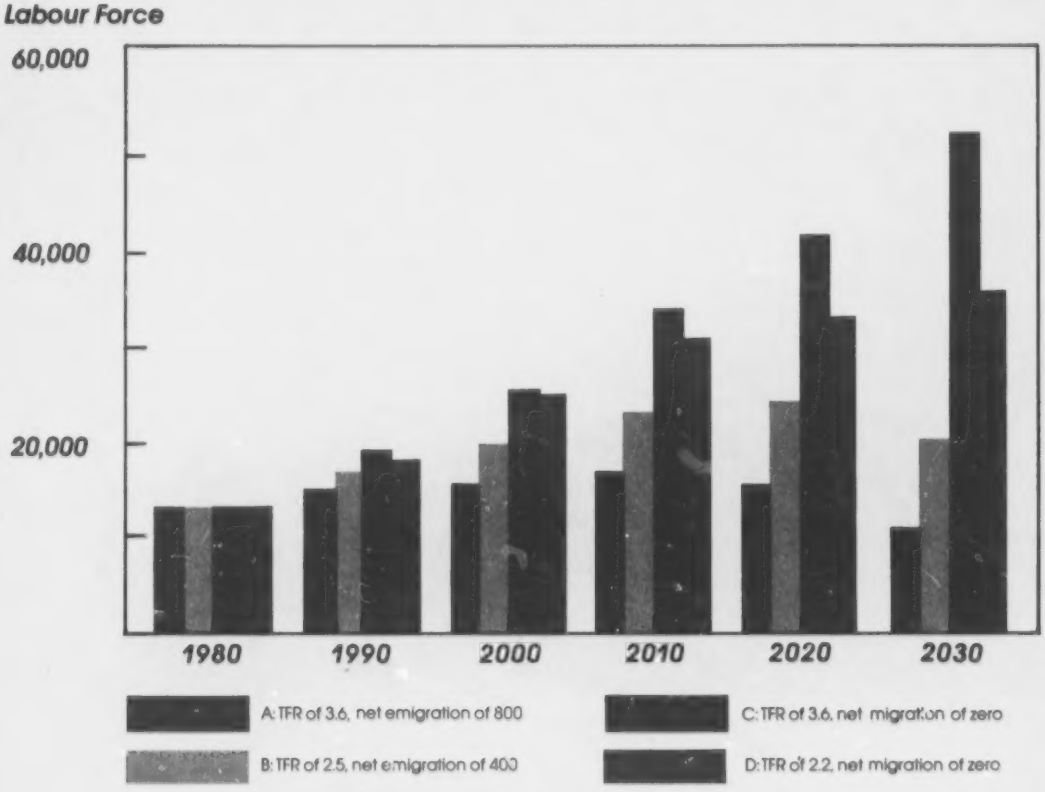
behaviour economically speaking, lower levels of both fertility and emigration would be the ideal path to follow. Not only would the total population remain around 45,000-50,000, but the age distribution would be particularly advantageous.

Changes in age distribution are demographically interesting, yet their real-world value lies in what they mean for the social and economic situation of a nation. For policymakers, the numbers behind the growth rates are more meaningful. In other words, what do changes in age distribution mean for future levels of school enrollment? How many more jobs will have to be found in the future? How many dependent elderly will there be?

School Enrollment: In this report it is assumed that everyone between the ages of 5 and 14 attends school. Admittedly, not all do and many above age 14 are still in school. Yet the 5–14 year olds serve as an adequate surrogate for school enrollment figures. From the picture painted in Figure 3 (see Appendix Table B for supporting data), it is clear that under Scenarios A and B the number of children will fall in future years. If the present levels of fertility and emigration continue (Scenario A) the number would fall from 10,886 in 1980 to 8,968 by 1990. It would then increase somewhat before declining steadily after the turn of the century. Under Scenario B the decrease would be less dramatic but steadier, falling from 10,142 by 1990 to 8,519 by the year 2000.

The situation without any emigration (Scenario C) would, however, be disastrous. The number of children aged 5–14

Figure 4: Labour Force in St. Kitts/Nevis, 1980–2030



would grow to 15,784 by the turn of the century and would almost double in the following 30 years to nearly 28,000—a clear impossibility!

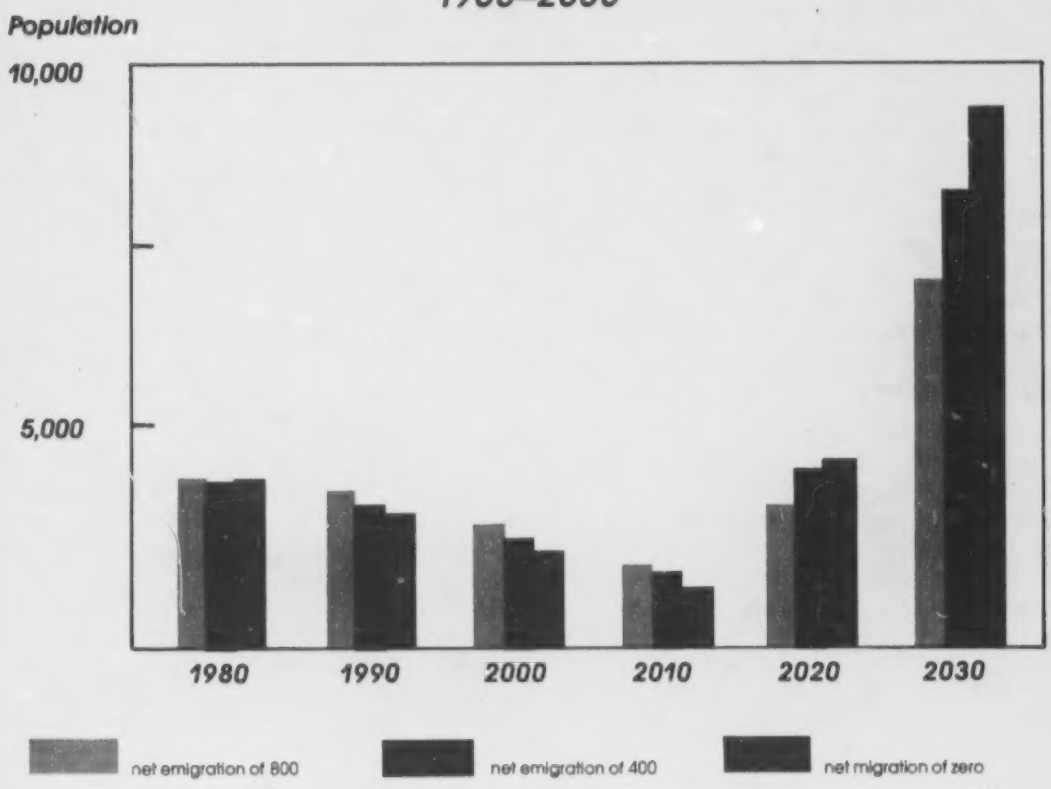
Overall, and speaking only numerically, the school situation in St. Kitts/Nevis appears quite favourable for the foreseeable future. Enrollments should decline slightly and if there are no changes in enrollment rates, this should allow for both improvements in quality as well as increases in enrollments among older youth, particularly those over age 14.

Labour Force: In this report, the International Labour Organization's projections for the Leeward Islands' rates of labour force participation have been used. Furthermore, all persons working or looking for work are included. Regardless of scenario, more jobs will have to be created for at least the next 40 years (see Figure 4; for supporting data, see Appendix Table C).

Looking first at Scenario A, in which the current high levels of net emigration are assumed to continue, over 1,600 new jobs would have to be available by 1990 and another 270 between 1990 and 2000 just to maintain the current levels of employment. (Lower fertility is irrelevant for at least the next 15 years as newborns and the very young are not part of the labour force.)

The powerful impact emigration has on the economy is exemplified in Scenario B, which assumes a halving of net emigration. Over the next 20 years some 6,600 jobs would have to be developed—about 4,700 more jobs than if net emigra-

Figure 5: Elderly Population (65 or Older) in St. Kitts/Nevis, 1980–2030



tion remained at its current level. Without any migration whatsoever (Scenario C), nearly 11,000 additional jobs would need to be created by the year 2000.

Unemployment in the two islands is currently around 15 percent. If it remains at that level, under Scenario A there would be almost 2,500 people out of work but looking for jobs by 1990, and over 2,500 unemployed by the year 2000. Under Scenario B the respective figures would be close to 2,800 and over 3,200.

Thus the overall advantages that Scenario B appears to have do not apply when examining labour force needs for the immediate future. The high level of emigration has definitely made it possible to keep the size of the labour force down; any reduction in the number of people leaving the islands will result in increased demands for jobs in St. Kitts/Nevis.

The Elderly: At the time of the most recent census there were 4,131 persons 65 or older in St. Kitts/Nevis, representing 9.5 percent of the islands' population (see Figure 5; for supporting data, see Appendix Table D). Under Scenario A the number of elderly would fall gradually until the year 2010, when it would start growing again. Similarly, under Scenario B the number of elderly would fall to about 3,000 by 2010, at which point growth would once again occur. Under the unlikely occurrence of either Scenario C or D, the number of people 65 or older would decline somewhat before increasing to over 9,000 by 2030.

The situation from 2020 onwards warrants explanation. Under all these sce-

narios the number of elderly would almost double between 2020 and 2030 and then remain quite large for some time thereafter. This unexpected growth reflects the large number of people born between 1955 and 1965. A glance at the 1980 population illustrates the size of that cohort. Despite significant emigration of this group after they reached the age of 10, and especially after age 15, the number of people aged 15–24 in the 1980 population (that is, those born between 1955 and 1964) is extraordinarily large—as large as the group of children under 10, a group that has not been strongly affected by emigration as yet.

Despite continued losses through emigration, and later through death, this cohort will pose special problems for St. Kitts/Nevis as it goes through with each phase of the life cycle. Prior to 1980 the schools undoubtedly felt its impact; the next ten years will see these individuals trying to enter the labour force, causing the previously noted need for additional jobs. Finally, after 2020 the individuals in that cohort will start entering their retirement years and will present other difficult problems for the nation's resources.

Conclusion: St. Kitts/Nevis is entering a new phase in its development as a nation. Politically, it is now independent; demographically, it is maintaining its no-growth population. Both politically and demographically the future is uncertain. As a result of independence, emigration from the island could actually increase, at least in the short run. On the other hand, the United States and Canada could restrict such movements under new legislation.

The new nation is among that very small group of countries that has not experienced any meaningful growth for over a century. Clearly, it cannot support many more people. Both low fertility and some emigration are needed if St. Kitts/Nevis is to remain a zero population growth nation.

Appendices

Table A: Current and Projected Population of St. Kitts/Nevis, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	43,309	42,838	42,022	39,213	34,938	27,845
B	43,309	45,670	47,683	49,283	49,754	48,165
C	43,309	52,630	66,119	82,736	103,776	128,819
D	43,309	49,721	56,460	64,082	71,397	77,241

A: TFR of 3.6, net emigration of 800
B: TFR of 2.5, net emigration of 400
C: TFR of 3.6, net migration of zero
D: TFR of 2.1, net migration of zero

Table B: Current and Projected School-Age Population (5–14) in St. Kitts/Nevis, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	10,886	8,968	9,679	7,577	5,509	3,878
B	10,886	10,142	8,519	8,541	7,314	6,383
C	10,886	11,308	15,784	18,621	22,236	27,629
D	10,886	11,308	9,646	11,114	11,015	11,070

Table C: Current and Projected Labour Force in St. Kitts/Nevis, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	14,915	16,556	16,829	17,305	15,561	11,786
B	14,915	18,446	21,527	23,681	24,066	20,433
C	14,915	20,376	25,588	34,412	43,404	52,247
D	14,915	20,200	25,578	31,280	33,942	36,169

Table D: Current and Projected Elderly Population (65 or Older) in St. Kitts/Nevis, 1980–2030

Scenario	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020	2030
A	4,131	4,035	3,600	3,073	3,897	6,975
B	4,131	3,940	3,432	3,002	4,145	8,105
C and D	4,131	3,845	3,267	2,931	4,394	9,235

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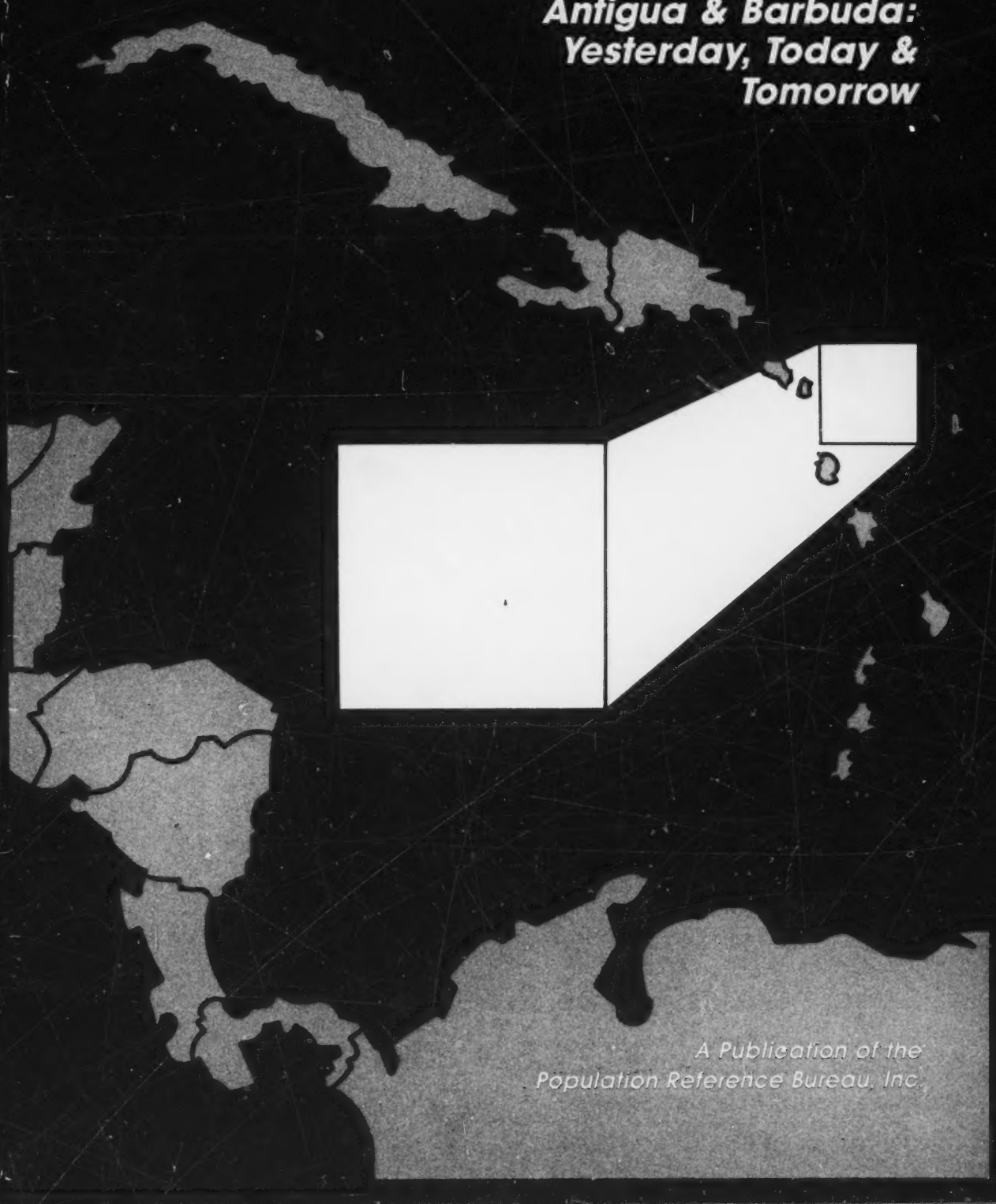

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The views expressed in these reports are those solely of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the view of USAID, CARICOM, or the respective governments.

Antigua & Barbuda: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

by Leon F. Bouvier
February 1984

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Antigua & Barbuda: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow

Antigua & Barbuda Yesterday

The first post-emancipation census in Antigua and Barbuda was taken in 1844, at which time 36,687 people were enumerated, including 509 living in Barbuda. Little change occurred between 1844 and the turn of the century. Indeed, the actual population of the two islands fell to 34,971 by the time of the 1901 Census (see Table 1).

This no-growth pattern noted in many of the East Caribbean British colonies undoubtedly reflected both a low rate of natural increase and a high rate of emigration. Fertility was high, but so was mortality. Crude birth rates of 45 per 1,000 population and crude death rates of 25 or even 30 per 1,000 were no doubt quite common. Additionally, net outmigration from the two islands must have been considerable, relatively speaking.

Between 1901 and 1921, Antigua and Barbuda continued to lose population. By the latter date, the total counted in the two islands was 29,767—a decline of 5,000 since 1901. Such patterns of population loss were not uncommon in the region. With continued high levels of fertility and mortality, emigration too must have remained very high. It is quite likely that mortality, in particular, was high during the 1918–20 worldwide influenza epidemic.

Table 1: Population of Antigua and Barbuda, 1844–1946

Year	Antigua	Barbuda	Total
1844	36,178	509	36,687
1851	37,136	629	37,765
1861	36,412	713	37,125
1871	34,344	813	35,157
1881	34,321	643	34,964
1891	36,239	580	36,819
1901	34,196	775	34,971
1911	31,398	871	32,269
1921	28,864	903	29,767
1946	40,778	979	41,757

During this same period, the Panama Canal was built and demands for Caribbean labour were substantial. Movements to the larger Caribbean islands must have remained high and the construction of the Bermuda dockyards, beginning in 1900, was a particularly important stimulus for job-seekers who left Antigua and Barbuda.

A dramatic change in population growth patterns took place after 1921. By the time of the 1946 census, the population of Antigua and Barbuda had grown to 41,757. This reflected an average annual rate of growth of 1.4 percent—by far the highest ever recorded up to that point in the nation's history.

How can such a demographic development be explained? Apparently both fertility and mortality rates fell over the 25-year period, with the latter falling more than the former. According to official statistics, births totaled 29,617 and deaths 18,441 for the total period. At the start of this 25 years, in 1921, it is assumed that these rates were high, with crude birth rates being around 40 and crude death rates around 20. By 1946, the birth rate was down to 37.0 and the death rate was 14.9 per 1,000.

At the same time, net international migration was positive, perhaps for the only time in the recorded demographic history of the nation. If the 1921 and 1946 censuses were comparatively comprehensive, net *immigration* amounted to 814 over the entire 25 years. This very small number sup-